



Global Aging Institute president Richard Jackson says Australia has the best retirement savings system in the world. Photo: David Clark

Gold Coast

# Retirement savings expert says Australian system is best in world

Alister Thomson, Gold Coast Bulletin

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GOLD Coast retirees are set to see their incomes boosted by the world's most robust retirement

savings system.

That is the view of Richard Jackson, president of the Global Aging Institute, who spoke at the

Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia conference at the Gold Coast Convention and

Exhibition Centre yesterday.

Mr Jackson said that Australia has the best retirement savings system in the world in terms of being fiscally sustainable and delivering a decent standard of living for the elderly.

“It is not perfect but Australia is the best,” he said.

“I’ve developed the global aged preparedness index that measures the adequacy and sustainability

of retirement savings systems over the next few decades as populations age and Australia performs very well.

“Along with Sweden and Canada, it is the only developed country that scores in the top tier of adequacy and sustainability.”

Mr Jackson said in Australia the ratio of per capita after-tax income of the old to the young is about 1:1.

“It is going up dramatically, heading to 1.3:1, whereas in many other developed countries it is set to go down.

“Why is it going up in Australia? Superannuation is going to be maturing. As the system matures, the benefits it pays out will increase and push up the living standard of the elderly relative to the non-elderly.”

Mr Jackson said the combination of a lean state pension and a robust, mandatory, funded superannuation scheme is the recipe for a sound system.

He said the Gold Coast, with its healthcare, finance, leisure and personal care services industries, is in an ideal position to cater to retirees.

“Ageing is accelerating the shift from manufacturing to services,” he said.

“That has been under way for a long time. Young people buy more things and old people buy more services. They buy healthcare, financial services and personal care services of all kinds and leisure services.”

Earlier, Mr Jackson told attendees the world is going through a stunning demographic transformation where elderly people, who have never numbered more than a fraction of the world’s population, will rise to account for 15 to 25 per cent of the population of developed states.

He said few developed countries will be able to cope with the fiscal burden of a fast-rising elderly population.

Originally published as [Australia’s pension system ‘the best’](#)

